Monday, January 5, 2009 • Elections / Vol. 24 / No. 28 / P18 / website: www.inquirer.net

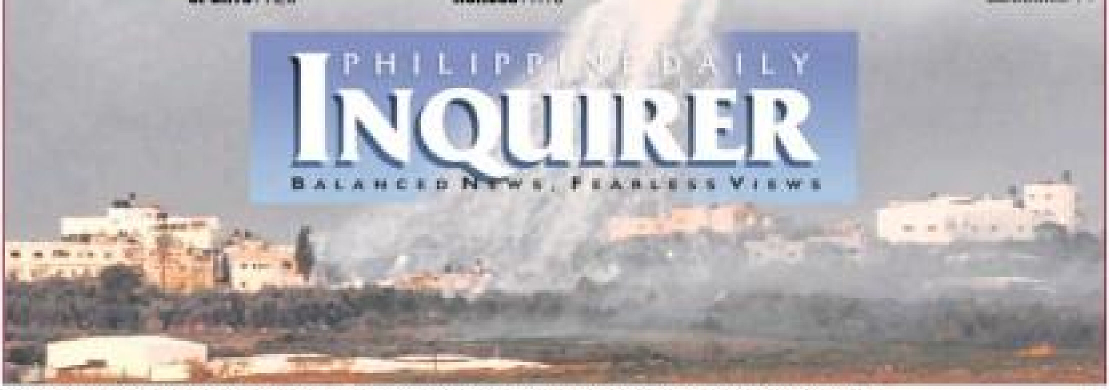
Hatton will beat Pacquiao, predicts Mayweather Sr. SPORTS / A28

Radioman survives slay attempt ACROSS / A18

Electromaniacs are back ENTERTAINMENT / E1

Real-life lessons from 2008 news LEARNING / F1

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS



UNDER SIEGE Smoke rises into the air and an artillery shell explodes over central Gaza Strip as Israeli troops push deeper and engage Hamas fighters in fierce battles. AFP

Israeli ground troops, tanks invade Gaza Strip



BORDER TROOPS Israeli soldiers wait at the Israeli-Gaza border for orders of deployment into the strip after tanks rolled toward the area on Saturday. AFP

GAZA CITY, GAZA STRIP—Israeli ground troops and tanks cut swaths through the Gaza Strip early Sunday, bisecting the coastal territory and surrounding its biggest city as the new phase of a devastating offensive against Hamas gained momentum.

Thousands of soldiers in three brigade-size formations pushed into Gaza after nightfall on Saturday, beginning a long-awaited ground offensive after a week of intense aerial bombardment. Black smoke billowed over Gaza City at first light as bursts of machine gun fire rang out.

TV footage showed Israeli troops with night-vision goggles and camouflage face paint marching in single file. Artillery barrages preceded their advance, and they moved through fields and orchards following bomb-sniffing dogs ensuring their routes had not been booby-trapped.

At least 32 Palestinians were killed as a result of Israeli

ISRAELI A17

66 Pinoys in Gaza to evacuate today

THE FIRST BATCH OF Filipinos caught in the crossfire between Israeli troops and Hamas militants will be flown out of war-torn Gaza Strip today, Malacañang announced yesterday.

Sixty-six Filipinos will comprise the group that will be flown first to Amman in Jordan before heading to Manila, ac-

66 PINOYS A2

Protests erupt across the globe

LONDON—TENS OF THOUSANDS of people demonstrated in European cities against Israel's offensive in Gaza, including protesters who hurled shoes at the tall iron gates outside the British prime minister's residence in London.

Thousands also joined demonstrations in Indonesia

PROTESTS A17

Usec defends PDEA call

Blancaflor denies pressuring drug agency to free 3 suspects

By Arlyn dela Cruz, Contributor and Norman Bordadora

JUSTICE UNDERSECRETARY RICARDO BLANcaflor yesterday described as "public assistance" his phone call to the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) on Dec. 19 to ask why it was not releasing three drug suspects even after state prosecutors had cleared them.

Defending the call, Blancaflor said he was merely heeding a request from an uncle of one of the suspects.

"Philip Brodett called up my office. He introduced himself and asked how come the three suspects were still detained when they have been cleared by the prosecutors," Blancaflor said in a phone interview from Iloilo.

According to many inquiries was part of his job, the official said. "As (Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez) says, 'If it's for public assistance, we should go out of our way,'" he said.

"It was a simple inquiry. And it was a valid inquiry," he added.

In a statement, Blancaflor categorically denied "any involvement in any wrongdoing in connection with the PDEA drug bust."

USEC DEFENDS A6

'NEW GLOBAL LAND GRAB'

Rich states target poor's farmland

KUALA LUMPUR—RESOURCE-hungry nations are snapping up huge tracts of agricultural land in poor Asian nations, in what activists say is a "land grab" that will worsen poverty and malnutrition.

Global trends including high prices for oil and commodities, the biofuel boom and now the sweeping downturn are sparking import-reliant countries to take action to protect their sources of food.

China and South Korea, which are both short on arable land, and Middle Eastern nations flush with petrodollars, are driving the trend to sign up rights to swathes of territory in Asia and Africa.

In the Philippines, a series of high-profile deals has clashed with long-running demands for agrarian reform, including land redistribution.

The Department of Agrarian Reform said in 2007 it was looking at large tracts of land for agribusiness development under a memorandum of understanding signed with China. The memo calls for the development of land to grow hybrid corn, rice and sorghum.

Because of protests, the Department of Agriculture suspended plans to allow China to use 1.24 million hectares of Philippine agricultural land.

"It will aggravate the problem of landlessness, the insufficiency of land for Filipino peas-

RICH A11



FEAST OF EPIPHANY Men on horseback dressed as the biblical Three Kings distribute candies to children on the Feast of the Epiphany, tracing their yearly route from the Adamson University to Casino Español in Manila.

'Auring' first storm to enter RP this year

By Nikko Dizon, Jerome Aning and Inquirer Bureaus

THE COUNTRY'S FIRST TROPIcal storm of the new year yesterday changed course after threatening Eastern Visayas, grounding vessels in at least 10 provinces and stranding about 12,000 travelers.

Code-named "Auring," the storm is expected to be hardly felt in Metro Manila, which will only experience partly cloudy skies with occasional rainshowers, weather forecasters said.

They said the storm had also enhanced the northeast monsoon (locally known as the amihan), contributing to the cold weather the past few days.

The entry of Auring into the Philippine area coincided with the return to Metro Manila of tens of thousands of vacationists from the provinces, but those among them hoping for a longer holiday as a result of the weather disturbance may be in for a disappointment.

"It's a weak storm," said Dr.

AURING A6

Nurse also prepares for singing career



CONCEPCION: Singing nurse

By Fe Zamora

WHEN NOT ON DUTY AS A nurse, Reynaldo "CJ" Concepcion can be found singing before corporate executives, starry-eyed brides, excited employees and homesick balikbayans at clan reunions.

And singing is one thing he does well. In July, Concepcion won one gold medal and four silvers at the 12th Annual World Championships of Performing Arts (WCOPA) in Los Angeles, California.

Concepcion, 27, beat hundreds of talents from 48 countries in a weeklong competition considered to be the official "World Talent Championships" and "Hollywood Olympics" for aspiring performers and entertainers. Concepcion competed in the 25-29 age bracket.

He won the gold in the Male Vocal Open category, and four silver medals—for Male Vocal Broadway, Male Vocal Contemporary, Male Vocal Gospel and Male Vocal Pop.

His rendition of Taylor Hicks' "Do I Make You Proud" won him the gold in the open category. His versions of "This is the Moment," "Broken Vow," "You Raise Me Up" and "Angels Brought Me Here" won him the silver in the Broadway, contemporary, gospel and pop categories.

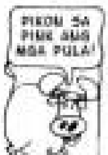
NURSE A6

Metro in pink irks left-wing solons; House probe sought

By Leila B. Salaverria and Allison W. Lopez

FOR THESE "REDS," METRO MANILA hardly looks pretty in pink.

A group of left-leaning lawmakers wants the House of Representatives to investigate—in aid of legislation—the use by the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) of bright pink as standard color for road signs and structures.



METRO A6

Second FrontPage

SUPERLOTTO 6/49					
18	30	38	46	47	49
P16,000,000.00					

Agrarian reform face-off looms

Militant lawmakers draw line in sand over extension, funding of CARP

By Leila B. Salaverria

PROPONENTS OF AGRARIAN REFORM WILL FACE OFF when Congress resumes its session two weeks from now.

Conflicting views

CARP not expired

Not a veto, either

More radical alternative

Afraid of losing your job? Gov't is ready to help you

By Christian V. Esguerra

Cash-transfer scheme

Raps in golf brawl readied

By DJ Yap



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Gov't 2009 budget deficit seen at P74B from P25B surplus

[illegible]

'More voters would turn out for early polls'

[illegible]





A YOUNG BOY in Quezon City [illegible] 2009.

DILG needs more money for jails

[illegible]

1 guard for 53 inmates

[illegible]

Contraband proliferation

[illegible]

The Daily Gospel

[illegible]

Telecoms body makes windfall collection in '08

[illegible]

Preserve RP heritage sites, urges Durano

TOURISM SECRETARY JOSEPH ACE DURANO has called on local communities hosting World Heritage sites to help preserve these "tourist magnets."

"These sites are sources of our livelihood as much as they are wellsprings of national pride," said Durano.

Of the 878 World Heritage sites on the United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization (Unesco) list, five are found in the Philippines: The Baroque churches of Manila, Sta. Maria (Ilocos Sur), Paoay (Ilocos Norte) and Miag-ao (Iloilo); Tubbataha Reef Marine Park; the rice terraces in the Cordilleras; the historic town of Vigan, Ilocos Sur; and the Puerto Princesa Subterranean River National Park.

"We appeal to the residents and tourists to take care of these sites," he said.

Many churches in the Philippines made it to the Unesco list because of their European architectural style executed by Chinese and Filipino craftsmen.

The Puerto Princesa Subterranean River features a spectacular underground limestone landscape.

The underground river ranked No. 1 on the Internet's "New 7 Wonders of Nature" (ranking the past few weeks).

"It stands out because it's a river that has strong tidal behavior, due to its direct connection to the sea," according to Tourism Undersecretary Eduardo Jarque Jr. -Russel M. Domingo

No time left to hold Con-ass, says solon



BACK TO NORMAL

Cops launch hunt for grenade hurler who wounded 8 people

AFP to go after all insurgents

NPA kills cop, seizes 3 others

'Negligent' notary public suspended

By Norman Bordadora

LET THIS BE A WARNING TO NOTARIES public who testify to the authenticity of documents without verifying the identities of the people who signed them.

The Supreme Court has suspended for three months a Nueva Ecija-based lawyer who notarized a deed of sale that had falsified signatures and cost a property owner more than 140,000 square meters of "mango land" in Zambales.

The tribunal also revoked lawyer Sancho Pedrerez' notarial commission.

"A notary public is duty bound to require the person executing a document to be personally present, and to swear before him that he is the person named in the document and is voluntarily and freely executing the act mentioned in the document," the court said in the decision penned by Justice [illegible].

"The notary public faithfully discharges this duty by at least verifying the identity of the persons appearing before him based on the identification papers presented," it added.

Investigation

The investigation by the Integrated Bar of the Philippines showed that Pedrerez notarized a deed of sale disposing of complainant Zenaida Gonzales' mango farm to supposed buyers Antonio Gonzales, Zenaida Gonzales and Rodolfo Gonzales on July 16, 1979.

This was followed by an agreement that partitioned her property for the three buyers and an affidavit of non-tenancy all in 1998.

Zenaida Gonzales filed the complaint against Pedrerez on Dec. 18, 2003, for gross negligence and failure to exercise the care required by law in the performance of his duties.

She said Pedrerez's negligence and carelessness resulted in the loss of her 141,497-sq. m. (14-hectare) property.

Forged

She added she could not have signed the deed of sale and the two other documents, much less appear before the lawyer, because she was in the United States at the time.

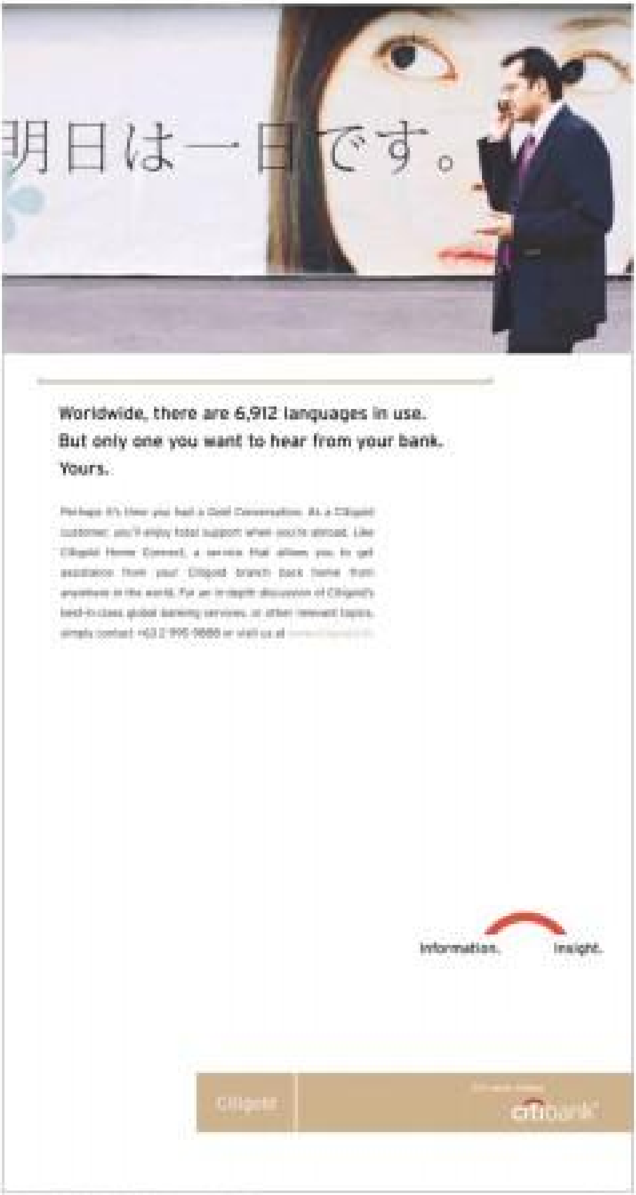
The IBP commission on bar discipline submitted its resolution, based on the investigation of commissioner Milagros San Juan, to the Supreme Court in 2005.

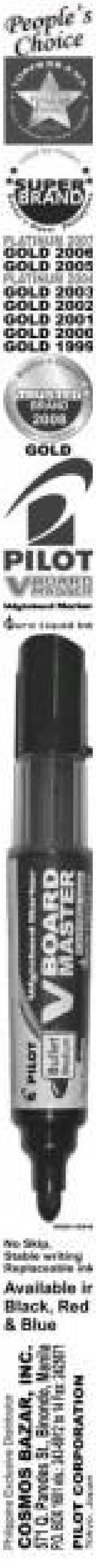
"All three documents carried forged signatures and falsely certified that the complainant personally appeared before the respondent and that she was 'known to me (the respondent) to be the same person who executed the foregoing, and acknowledged to me that the same is her own free act and voluntary deed,'" the court said.

"The complainant claimed that she never appeared before respondent on the dates the documents were notarized because she was then in the United States," it added.









Usec defends PDEA call

Force of pressure

Just doing job

DOJ chief says Blancaflor now under investigation

Release order

Examine record

RAM member

Coast Guard places detachments on alert

'Auring' first '09 storm

Storm signal over E. Samar

Tracking Auring

Northern Samar

Stranded Bicolanos

Metro in pink irks left-wing solons

Nuisance defined

'Help for pedestrians'

Pink of health

Nurse also prepares for singing career

Passion for singing

Boy with big voice

Place in the sun

Number of autoLPG taxis seen to rise to 20,000 in 2009

By Abigail L. Ho

AS MOTORISTS continue to look for cheaper fuel alternatives, the Department of Energy expects the number of taxis running on autoLPG on the country's streets to reach 20,000 this year from only 14,000 at the close of 2008.

The DOE said the use of autoLPG, or liquefied petroleum gas used as transport fuel, should also extend to motorcycles and tricycles in 2009.

According to DOE data, there were around 13,000 autoLPG-run taxis operating in key cities nationwide last year, as well as 132 retail dispensing stations.

For 2009, the DOE expects the number of autoLPG taxis to balloon to 20,000. It has also targeted the conversion of 500 two-stroke and four-stroke motorcycle engines to autoLPG use.

The validation of autoLPG technology for motorcycles should be completed within the year, it said.

Standards

In September last year, the Department of Science and Technology said it was in the process of drafting standards that would govern autoLPG tricycles, to ensure that the safety of both drivers and commuters would not be compromised.

These standards, according to the DOST, had to do with LPG-powered tricycles with detachable cylinders. Today, available standards only govern those with fixed cylinders.

Even without the standards for detachable cylinders, however, the DOST said the Palawan provincial government was already conducting a pilot testing of tricycles using detachable cylinders.

As this could be unsafe for both drivers and commuters, the Palawan government was urged to consider setting up a refilling station for autoLPG tricycles, so that drivers would not have to detach the LPG tanks from their vehicles.

The DOE is promoting the use of alternative fuels such as LPG to help alleviate the impact of high fuel costs on the transport sector.

But DOE energy utilization and management bureau director Mario Marasigan said in an earlier interview that this did not mean the DOE would promote the use of something that was not yet governed by clear standards.

2010 presidential polls tops on bishops' agenda

US demand for nurses to rise in '14



WIDE OPEN WAITING ROOM

Pollution, infertility blamed on Pill

Grin and bear it, abused RP maid reportedly told by embassy staffer

Recruiters aid Pinoys in Taiwan

Laid-off OFWs get back wages, return tickets



WAITING FOR HELP

Unclean voters list won't help automated polls—Pimentel

Workers rap Congress for delay in passage of preneed plans code



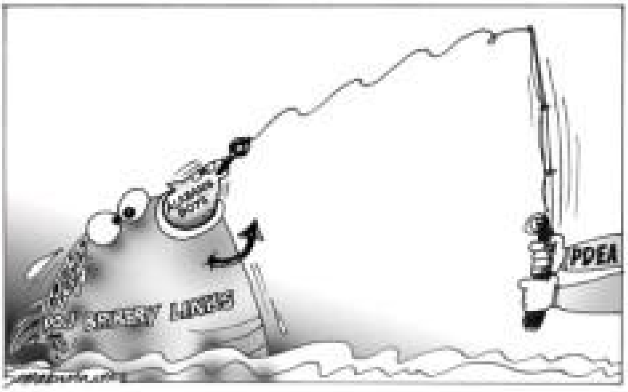



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INQUIRER
OPINION

Nogie's war

EDITORIAL



The Siege of Baler is like another Alamo

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

As the year turned

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

A new Constitution in 2009?

Sounding Board

Fr. Joaquin G. Bernas, S.J.



The 'boy general' of the Filipinos

Reveille

Ramon J. Farolan



Most-read of 2008, online

Report

from Inquirer.net

Most read columns, online

Most read editorials, online

Left and Right sides of People Power

The Long View

Manuel L. Quezon III



Zuño, go on leave

LETTERS

Long live Major Marcelino and his boss!

Students must be educated about Ponzi scheme

A country where gov't service is an oxymoron

At least Lim Seng's execution brought some hope

Emerging alternative to neoliberalism

COMMENTARY

Roland G. Simbulan

Looks like CARP is biggest hoax, longest-playing illusion

Pangandamans should face the consequences

Gonzalez sincere now?



Israeli ground troops, tanks invade Gaza Strip





BORDERLINE Israeli soldiers take positions near the Israel-Gaza border before crossing into the Gaza Strip.

'Graveyard for Israelis'

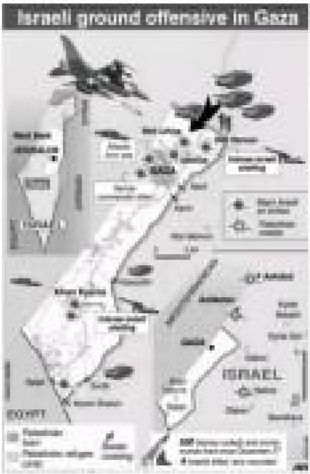
No more choice

Target: Rocket sites

House-to-house moves

Humanitarian crisis

France initiative



Across the NATION

Radioman survives slay attempt

1 dead, 7 missing in floods



CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY—SEVEN persons went missing and a child was killed when a flashflood hit this city and Gingoog City on Saturday morning, the City Disaster Coordinating Council here said.

Korean national nabbed for drugs

NEWSBRIEFS

BULACAN

2 workers dead in chemical blast

LAOAG CITY

Wife of Fariñas' brother found dead

PANGASINAN

3 grass owls rescued

Safety reminders for beachgoers

BALANGA CITY

2 dead in car accident

200 trees cut for Pangasinan highway



A BOY'S JOY

Improved road from Baguio to Aritao now called Baguio-Banaue

Improvement project

Strategic location

Cordillera ponders future of autonomy

Daycare program launched for Maguindanao children

Mimosa workers brace for strike

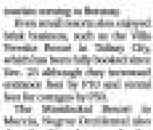
Gamblers use numbers in bomb attacks to woo bets

Justice sought for quarry leader



Business as usual for tourism, retail industries

Help comes to Ghanaian stranded in Clark







WORLDWIDE OUTRAGE Pro-Palestinian demonstrators (left) demand an end to Israeli attacks on the Gaza Strip during a protest in New York. In Tel Aviv (right), Israeli activists wave banners during an antiwar rally against the Israeli military operation.

Protests erupt across the globe

[illegible]

Israeli terror hit

[illegible]

More protests

[illegible]

'Turning in her grave'

[illegible]

Petrol bombs

[illegible]

Israeli flag burned

[illegible]

Indon Islamists

[illegible]

Brown's action

[illegible]

66 Pinoys in Gaza to evacuate today

[illegible]

Rich states target poor's farmland in 'new global land grab'

[illegible]

Qatar lease of RP land

[illegible]

Daewoo deal in Madagascar

[illegible]

Kuwait loan for Cambodia

[illegible]

Serious danger

[illegible]


PLDT
sme
is a proud partner of GoNegosyo in making entrepreneurship successful last 2008
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"To our partners, mentors and sponsors who helped spread the entrepreneurship advocacy of GoNegosyo across the country, Maraming Salamat po! Entrepreneurship that creates jobs is our way out of poverty. GoNegosyo shall continue to promote the importance of having a positive entrepreneurial attitude, right knowhow and hardwork.
Join us in inspiring, empowering and giving hope to our countrymen, so they can move up in life for a better future. Lets GoNegosyo!" - Joey Concepcion

A plus METRO
Editor: Abelardo S. Ulanday

DID YOU KNOW

THE FIRST transaction made in the country's first bank was a borrowing transaction. On May 1, 1852, a Chinese named Tadlan borrowed 10,000 pesos fuertes ("strong pesos") from El Banco Español Filipino de Isabel II in Binondo, forerunner of the Bank of the Philippine Islands.

Cyril L. Bonabente, Inquirer Research

QC police step up anticriminality drive

Top cop sees hike in crimes due to bleak economic forecast

By Julie M. Aurelio

THE QUEZON CITY POLICE DISTRICT HAS IMPLEMENTED A widespread revamp among officials in charge of maintaining peace and order in the area as part of its intensified anticriminality drive this year.

In a command conference the other day, Senior Supt. Magtanggol Gatdula, QCPD chief, announced the changes and at the same ordered his men to step up their drive against criminals.

Gatdula observed that while the last months of 2008 were generally peaceful, the city's policemen should watch out for more crimes this year due to the dim economic forecast.

Planning ahead

"We are always planning based on given assumptions. If there will be economic difficulties, the more we will intensify our anticrime strategies," he said.

Gatdula, meanwhile, reported a decrease in the crime index volume last year, with 6,156 cases compared to 6,425 in 2007.

In addition, there were only 81 reported car theft incidents in 2008, down from 136 cases in 2007, he added.

Of the QCPD's 11 police stations, five were affected by the revamp which took effect on Jan. 5.

The new appointments were issued on Dec. 30 by Senior Supt. Mario de la Vega, chief of the police district's directorial staff.

Supt. Norberto Babagay, formerly of the QCPD Traffic Enforcement Unit (TEU), was named chief of Station 1 in La Loma. He was replaced in the TEU by Supt. Nestle Valeda.

Supt. Jesus Balingasa Jr., on the other hand, was designated officer in charge of Station 2 in Masambong.

QC POLICE/A20

Ermita, Zubiri asked: Help us block ordinance

By Allison W. Lopez

[illegible]



LAST HURRAH
A man caps the long Christmas break by taking his children on a boat ride in Manila Bay.

Jealous man takes wife, kids hostage

By Jeannette I. Andrade

[illegible]

Shop loses MacBooks, iPods to thieves

By DJ Yap

[illegible]

QC police step up anticriminality drive

[illegible]

More reassignments

[illegible]

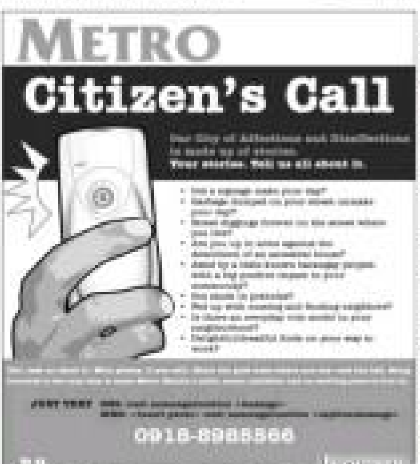
MetroBriefs

Brawl erupts in Pasay bar

[illegible]

Jeepney driver, minor nabbed for robbery

[illegible]



Citizen's call

Street needs to be repaired

[illegible]

Fixers at the DFA

[illegible]

Zone of chaos

[illegible]



A FIREMAN shoots a jet of water through an opening in the roof of a burning house on Lorenzo Street in Sampaloc, Manila.

Fire hits ex-justice's house

By Jeannette I. Andrade

[illegible]



PRESIDENT George W. Bush, with first lady Laura Bush, returning to the White House from Texas on Jan. 1. AP

8 years of the Texas phrase-mangler: Bush's personality shapes his legacy

By Ben Feller

[illegible]

Strict taskmaster

[illegible]

No guessing

[illegible]

Peanut butter guy

[illegible]

Bushisms

[illegible]

Temper and criticism

[illegible]

A 'roster'

[illegible]

AP

FINAL ASSAULT

Sri Lanka Army moving on Tamil Tigers' bastion

[illegible]

AFP

Man's last lotto wins $10M for widow

[illegible]

AP

The WORLD

US Congress faces historic challenges

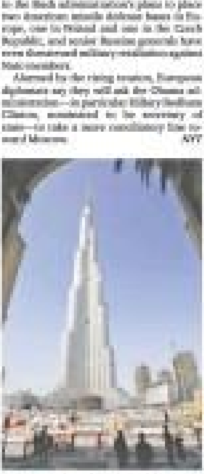
WASHINGTON—DEMOCRATS WILL PACK greater clout when the new Congress convenes on Tuesday but they face enormous expectations from voters as they grapple with two wars, a financial crisis and record budget deficits.

A new chapter: Europe ready to work with Obama



Scientists urge Aussies: Eat kangaroos, camels

Powerful quakes kill 4 in Indonesia



Dubai dream turns sour as job losses mount

By Ali Khalil

SPORTS



SMB ousts Air21, faces Ginebra next

Battling Beermen survive 2nd KO game

By Musong R. Castillo

Coca-Cola Tigers retire, rehire Duremdes

By Musong R. Castillo



DUREMDES Fresh start

BIG DOME DUEL

Concepcion primed for WBC Int'l title bid

By Recah Trinidad



Burglars break into athletics dormitory

By Cedelf P. Tupas

Hatton's crack corner throws first verbal jab



HATTON: Solid game plan versus Pacquiao

Ricky will beat Pacquiao, says Mayweather Sr.

By Cedelf P. Tupas

Tourney of Club Champs at Eagle Ridge Jan. 19 to 23

SPORTSWATCH

Yulo Cup in Canlubang

'Rambulan' series today

Makati 4-cock derby on

Juvic's dad tops PGAP tilt



STEP ASIDE, JUVIC

Motor racing greats should be in Hall of Fame

CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Iñigo



No easing up for Batang Pier after Singapore game

COMMENTARY

Sparking Obama's attention

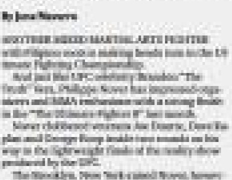


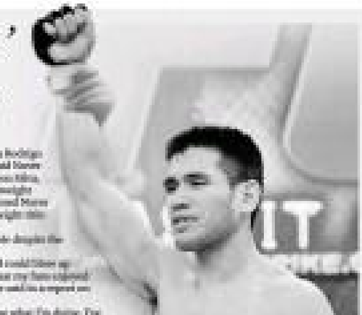
MILLER'S MAXIM

Nothing beats a team victory

9th Guevara Sr golf Friday at Wack Wack

'Filipino Assassin' leaves UFC mark





NBTC gives cagers an edge

Best Center resumes Jan. 10

SPORTS

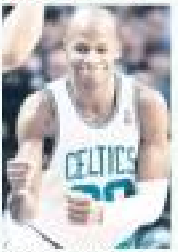
Hawks nip Rockets; Heat triumph





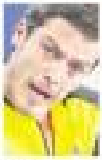
Chargers oust Colts via thrilling OT victory

Boston Celtics need help, but not right away



HOPMAN TENNIS

Safin siblings shine as Russia creams Italy



SAFIN



SAFINA

Beckham to play in AC Milan friendly



BUSINESS

Asia dollar pool to get $2-B boost from RP

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE PHILIPPINES IS SET TO contribute about $2 billion in a regional pool of reserves that Asian nations are building up as a buffer against the turbulent global financial environment, according to a central bank official.

IN THIS ISSUE



As prospects remain dim, traders exercise caution

OFW remittances seen to reach $17.9B in '09

Looking forward, looking inward

No Free Lunch



As prospects remain ...

OFW remittances ...

Asia dollar pool ...

PDTC seeks guarantee from exchange

Hedge fund tools may see revival in Asia

DA eyes Palau, PNG as new fishing grounds

DOE awards 3 wind power contracts

Smart subscriber base grew by 16% to 35M in 2008

INFOTECH

Repainting the laptop PC landscape







Netbooks fuel surge in notebook shipments worldwide

BUSINESS *Monday*

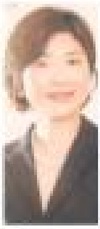
Top tips on how to handle money in ’09

Battered Asia markets offer very early signs of recovery

MARKETS 2008

World stock markets closed out the year on Wednesday with some having registered their worst annual losses in history, although December looked set to end on a rare up note and there was some optimism about 2009

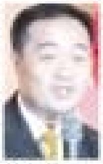




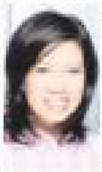
GO



NULES family



GONZALES



GALARPE

Tough times call for more CSR

BUSINESS

SC approves rules on corporate rehabilitation

By Elizabeth Sanchez-Lacson

THE SUPREME COURT HAS approved the 2008 implementing rules on petitions for corporate rehabilitation, which would take effect on Jan. 16.

The Philippine Stock Exchange said in a statement that the new rules would give debt-ridden companies some relief in times of financial difficulty.

The new rules, which were drafted by a committee of the Supreme Court with the assistance of private sector representatives such as the PSE, would replace the interim rules of procedure on corporate rehabilitation approved by the Supreme Court in 2000.

The PSE said the new rules seek to improve court procedures for petitions for rehabilitation or re-organization of corporations, partnerships and associations in order to help debtors recover from financial difficulties on one hand and treat creditors fairly on the other.

"The passage of the new rules is perfectly timed as some companies may encounter financial difficulties as a result of the ongoing global recession. It is therefore important that our bankruptcy system is ready to help our companies get back on their feet if they find themselves in such a situation," PSE president Francis Lim said.

One major change introduced by the Supreme Court governs negotiated rehabilitation plans.

Under the new rules, if the proposed rehabilitation plan is approved by creditors holding at least two-thirds of the total liabilities of the debtor, including secured creditors holding more than half of the total secured claims and unsecured creditors holding more than half of the unsecured claims, both parties can go to court for approval of the plan.

The court is then given a maximum of 120 calendar days from the date of filing of the petition to decide on the petition. If the court fails to do so within the period, the rehabilitation plan shall be deemed approved.

As for ordinary petitions for rehabilitation, the new rules give the court a maximum of one year to act on the petition. The new deadline is intended to avoid delay in the resolution of rehabilitation cases, which has proven detrimental to both debtors and creditors.

Another major improvement is the recognition of foreign rehabilitation proceedings.

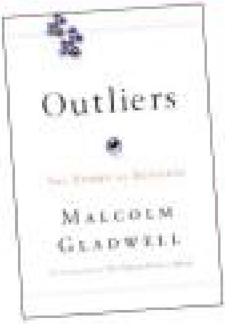
The model cover cases where assistance is sought in a Philippine court by a foreign court or representative; assistance is sought in a foreign state in connection with a domestic rehabilitation proceeding; or both existing foreign, domestic proceedings taking place at the same time.

The new corporate rehabilitation rules will be the counterpart of Chapter 11 bankruptcy laws in the United States, which will be supported by the passage of a more comprehensive bankruptcy law to replace the 1909 Insolvency Act.

LIFESTYLE Arts & Books







Book takes a different tack on the origin of genius

'Blink' author Malcolm Gladwell argues that genius is made, not born

By Ruel S. De Vera

MALCOLM GLADWELL IS smart, but exactly how smart? Is he smarter than you? That question embodies the idea at the core of Gladwell's newest book, "Outliers: The Story of Success" (Little, Brown and Company, New York, 2008, 309 pages).



The kinky-haired thinker who tackled massive change in 2000's "The Tipping Point" and quick thinking in 2005's "Blink" now puts the idea of intelligence between his literary crosshairs: "I will argue that there is something profoundly wrong with the way we make sense of success."

What Gladwell excels at is taking something considered generally-accepted fact and showing us how wrong it is, and putting forth an argument that seems counter-intuitive, before proving it. This is what he does in "Outliers," which he defines as an example "that lies outside everyday experience, where the normal rules do not apply."

Specifically, he discusses what makes people like The Beatles, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, Bill Gates and Steve Jobs, among others, so extraordinarily successful.

What then is Gladwell's counter-intuitive theory about genius? That geniuses do not spring from a vacuum, that it is more about where they're from than who they are: "They are invariably the beneficiaries of hidden advantages and extraordinary opportunities and cultural legacies that allow them to work hard and make sense of the world in ways others cannot."

Like his earlier books, "Outliers" presents a big picture to discuss his big ideas, tracing the connections between Canadian hockey, making garments in New York, planting rice in China, and what all that has to do with why Asians make excellent students, particularly in mathematics.

Along the way, he demonstrates how

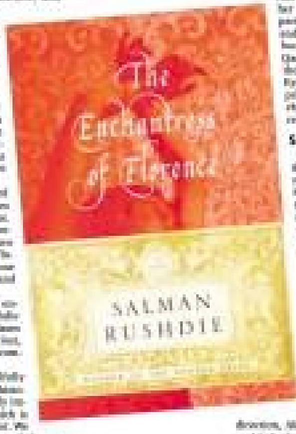
BOOK C2



The book of beautiful lies

Salman Rushdie's lush new novel seems to impose its will on the reader, seducing them into savoring 'The Enchantress of Florence'

IT HAS BEEN TOLD THAT the greatest storytellers had the power to breathe life into the imaginary. That gift is on delicious display, in various guises and directions, within the pages of "The Enchantress of Florence: A Novel" by Salman Rushdie (Random House, New York, 2008, 355 pages).



Book takes a different tack on the origin of genius

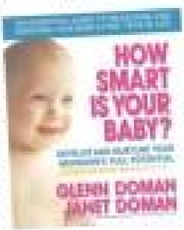
Inspirational author calls for purity, charity



THE LAME WALKED, the sick were healed, the downtrodden found hope. But the greatest miracle at the Kerygma Conference 2008 was participants experienced spiritual renewal to become more like Jesus.

[illegible]

Parenting must-reads



[illegible]

SMART Link

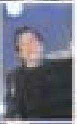
Thanksgiving Night

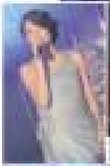


Smart Link honors top maritime industry partners

















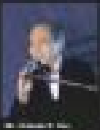


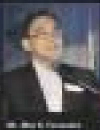


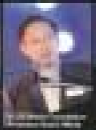




"We have achieved our common goal - to make our seafarers feel at home even while in the middle of the sea."



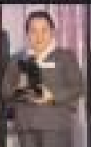




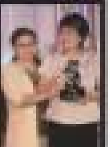








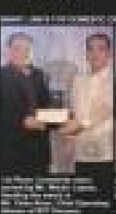
















LIFESTYLE Arts & Books



Top 5 events in Philippine visual arts



1. Philippine contemporary art works get high bids in international auctions.
2. Long-lost work by Juan Luna surfaces; but it is auctioned off by Christie's.
3. Museums hold Amorsolo retrospective.
4. Art spaces get bigger and better.
5. Vatican and the Philippines sign treaty to preserve the Catholic Church's cultural patrimony.

THE MOST EXCITING DEVELopments on the art scene in 2008 was obviously the high bidding for Philippine works in international auctions. This was noted by a panel of art industry leaders in the Inquirer Lifestyle's yearend art forum last Dec. 17. Leading sculptor Ramon Orlina, artist-critic Cid Reyes and Vita Sarenas of the Finale Art File gallery took part in the forum.

Top 5 events in Philippine visual arts

From page D1

HK$1,500,000 (P9,000,000) at a recent charity auction in Hong Kong.

Meanwhile, a Filipino photographer based in Melbourne, Australia set a record for the most expensive set of pictures sold at the Christie's Southeast Asian Modern and Contemporary Art auction in Hong Kong last June.

"The Passing of Light" by Emmanuel Santos, which comprises 50 black-and-white pictures measuring 20 x 20 inches, was sold for US$44,000 (P1.9 million). It's the highest on record for Philippine contemporary photography and Southeast Asian photography. They were a combination of first- and second-edition prints exhibited at Silverlens Gallery in Makati, in September 2007.

Reyes said the high prices Filipino art works had been fetching in international auctions should indicate "we're not beggars anymore." "Auctions are a barometer of how Philippine art is now accepted internationally," he explained.

But there's a caveat. "The high prices are not healthy," said Sorenson. "They're cheapening Philippine art. Some of the art works don't really deserve to be in the auction; they're there because of speculation, because of commerce. We must always remember that sometimes, auctions are a fluke."

Reyes said that while bring to auctions may sometimes create "a false image of the artist's worth," and that "there may be certain forces that are conceived so as to hype up certain artists whose works aren't quite accepted," auctions by and large are good for Philippine art.

Ortiga, who was instrumental in introducing Philippine works in international auctions like those of Christie's when he was president of the Art Association of the Philippines, said that Philippine art has become "an investment."

"Young artists are in demand," Ortiga said. "There's a market for Philippine art in Hong Kong, Singapore and Asia in general. Now auction houses are looking for young artists because buyers are also very young."





COVER of "Dimensions of Depth," about the art and achievements of Duki Duenas

Reyes explained what makes young artists click. "It is in the nature of the young to be open to trends and challenges," he said.

Lost Luna work found

The auction regime was enlivened last November not by young Filipino artists but by a master. A work of the old pre-war Filipino master Juan Novicio Luna (1857-1899), believed to have been lost and missing for over a century, surfaced and was auctioned off by Christie's during its Fall sale of Southeast Asian Modern & Contemporary Art on Nov 30.

"The recovery of an important and beautiful Luna will surely cause a stir in our art scene," Ortiga said. He was among the buyers at that time. (Ortiga's sculptures were among those auctioned off.)

The found work was "Las Damas Romanas" (Roman Maidens), which was supposed to have a floor price of HK$8,000,000-10,000,000 or US$1,025,680-1,282,000.

Prior to the discovery, documentation on the work was scant. It was noted in the 1957 biography of Luna by Carlos E. Da Silva, and appeared as a faded black-and-white photograph from the file of the pioneer art dealer and historian Alfonso T. Ongpin, which was reproduced by art historian and teacher Santiago Pilar in "Juan Luna: The Filipino as Painter," published by the Eugenio Lopez Foundation in 1980.

The painting is an oil on canvas, 100 x 170 cm (around 39 x 67 inches). It is signed and dated "Luna Roma 1882" at the lower right.

Like "Spoliarium," Luna's most famous mural showing the corpse of a Roman gladiator being dragged to a chamber under the coliseum, "Damas" is also drawn from ancient Roman history but its elements are cheerful. It shows two maidens on the steps of a building, one with her back reclining on a Roman pillar and the other, partly supine, holding on her knees, two frisky dogs trying to chase doves which are all around them, creating a merry scene of rest and languor. In the background is what appears to be a small shrine with incense smoke rising.

But during auction day, the Luna did not sell on the floor because, as historian Ambeth Ocampo who covered the auction, reported, "Winston Garcia of GSIS was not around to repatriate it," referring to the non-participation of the Government Service Insurance System in the auction after its controversial attempt in 2002 to recover Luna's "Parisian Life" in an international auction. "Damas Romanas" was sold out of auction for HK$4.7M or US$606,354.50.

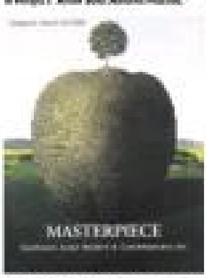
And the same, the fact that a big work by Luna has been recovered from the dustbin of history should be a cause for joy for Philippine art.

Amorsolo retrospective

Perhaps the biggest visual arts event in 2008 is the multi-museum Fernando Amorsolo retrospective, "His Art, Our Heart," an ambitious attempt to showcase the length and breadth of the oeuvre and achievement of the first Filipino National Artist (1892-1972). Seven museums—the UP Vargas, Lopez, National, Metropolitan, Yuchengco, GSIS and Ayala—along with several other museums all over the land bring out their respective Amorsolo collections in a seven-month exhibit that pays tribute to the artist who best captured "the essence of Filipino beauty and sunlight on canvas."



MARK Salvatus' rose print Amorsolo in Mirano's "Amor Solo: Amoros Muchos."



COVER of catalogue of Masterpiece auction in March 2008.

An exhibit held in tandem with the retrospective featured young artists' interpretations—or better still, deconstructions—of Amorsolo. The linguistic basis of the deconstructions was evident in the title of Mirano Gallery's August show "Amor Solo: Amoros Muchos." "Mirano artists work together to rediscover an old master each of them hardly knew, admittedly," the gallery notes said. "But they end up more than simply rediscovering; they reconstruct him, each creating his/her own Amorsolo towards an ever growing set of Amoros Muchos. This is an invitation extended to every Filipino—that we look again... at Amorsolo's works. Not to celebrate his genius by simply remembering him, but by constructing him over and over again."

The show had a point. Amorsolo cannot be received in the new century by the new generation like a time machine mechanically shuttling between past, present and future; recontextualization is unavoidable. Thus, the young Italian-Filipino Cosmosito Zicarelli's "Pathetic Act of Meaningless Violence"—which appropriates the pathos and violence of recreating an Amorsolo landscape fully: the ecstatic landscape one associates with Amorsolo has been recast by Zicarelli in his trademark urban panorama much like lahar land, with the inscription on the painting itself, "This is not an Amorsolo painting," reinforcing the artist's denial or the residual impossibility of recreating the Amorsolo idiom in its purest form. And Leeroy New's fiberglass-and-polyurethane sculpture, whose body is a patchwork of Amorsolo iconography and pop images, which the gallery notes said were "Amorsolo recontextualized, reinterpreted for an audience that commonly yet unconsciously juxtaposes classical realism with Nickelodeon."

"Amoros Muchos" was perhaps 2008's most intriguing art show, but nearly as always when the art of the young addresses the art of the old, its issue was dismissive of the past, even defiant. At the least, it seemed to make a badge of honor out of the admission of its own artists that they were ignorant of Amorsolo. Perhaps the young should learn to stop putting the cart before the horse: contextualization is always prior to recontextualization.

Although the multi-exhibit Amorsolo retrospective (which runs until March) is calculated to introduce the younger generations to the greatness of Amorsolo, it appears that it is the older generations who are reacquainting themselves with the master as shown by the demographic makeup of those attending the openings and those lining up to the museums. Senior artist James Gogliepio said that although the holdings of most of the museums sponsoring the exhibit are thin, the works reaffirm Amorsolo's artistic achievement. He said the exhibits brought to light that the late National Artist was "a master of composition." Critic-artist Gil Reyes agreed. In the Inquirer Lifestyle art forum, he said the exhibit restarts and brings to another level what many have thought all along—Amorsolo was a Philippine master in the ultimate sense of the term.

But Gogliepio lamented that in nearly all of his visits of the museums and galleries,



MASTER builder working on the gigantic statue, Mary Mother of the Poor, to be erected in the Batangas coast



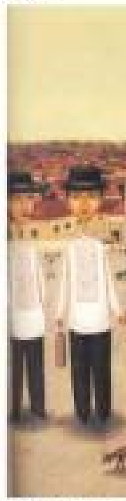
ART critic Gil Reyes. "Young artists are the masters of tomorrow."



VITA Sarenas of Finale Art File: "...gone global."



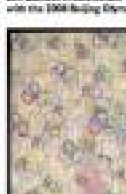
GALERIA Duenas has moved to Loring Street, Pasay City.



DOMINIC Rubio's "Old Manila Binondo Church," oil on canvas which she sold in the Masterpiece auction



"DANCING Rings," by Joe Datuin, which won the grand prize for sculpture in the international Sport and Art Contest in connection with the 2008 Beijing Olympics



"Dreams for Goals," by Edna... Recommended award in the ... Olympics art contest





Vatican, Manila sign treaty

Bigger, bolder art spaces

Other important events





Top 5 events in Philippine visual arts

From page D1



UNORTHODOX but exciting new art space, "Rotary's Up," a restaurant-gallery at A. Venue on Makati Avenue

• Manila-trained Spanish painter Juvenal Sansó's "Orbs in Brittany" at the Alliance Française paid poignant tribute to his late French friend, Yves Le Dantec. The exhibit of powerfully enigmatic Brittany landscapes (where Sansó used to spend vacations with Le Dantec and his family) was a mist-veiling show that disclosed another dimension to the artist's expressionist genius. Toward November, Sansó exhibited "Dreamscapes," consisting of eery landscapes employing the "reverse painting" technique that he developed when he was stage scenarist in Europe back in the 1970's.

• Dennis Dayrit, who used to be with Utterly Both, became curator of Alliance Française to provide rhyme and reason—and some weight and prestige—to the French cultural agency's visual arts calendar.

• Ofilos consolidated his reputation in the region as a leading sculptor when he 'Trib, the annual multi-gallery exhibit of Philippine art in Singapore in June around the time when the Philippines celebrates its National Day opened at the Singapore Management University's art gallery with an exhibit of his works in glass and brass. Ofilos has had a number of large works on display in Singapore, including a huge window installation in the Singapore Arts Museum. The exhibit also featured brass works by young sculptor Michael Cacnio.

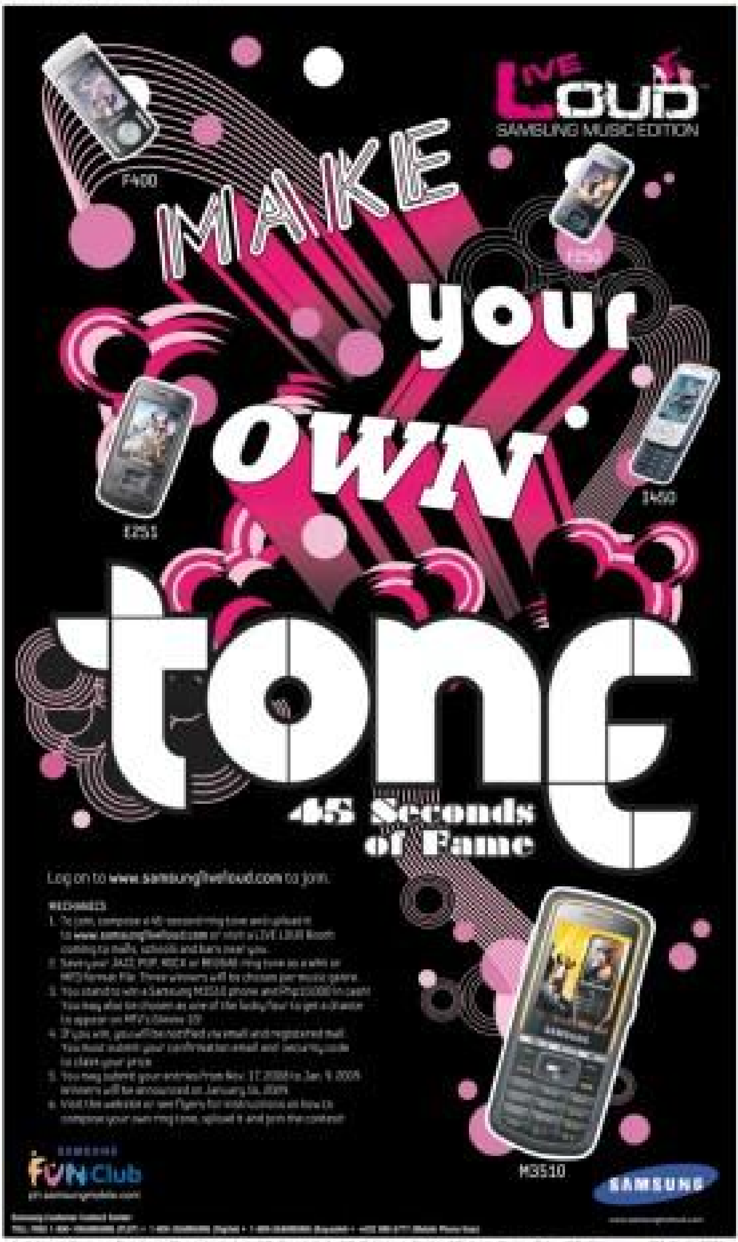
• Master builder Eduardo Castrillo started sculpting a gigantic brass Marian statue in Monumento, Batangas City that had been planned to be bigger than the Statue of Liberty.

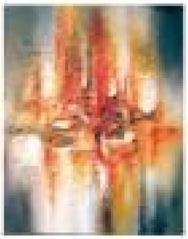
• The late Onib Olmedo's reputation as one of the most seminal and influential figurative expressionists was reaffirmed when the book "Dimensions of Depth," by art critic Alice Guillermo, was launched to great acclaim. During the launch, National Artist for Literature F. Sionil Jose, whose Solidaridad Gallery in the 1970's was the first to show Olmedo, said, "With the significant role that he played in the history of Philippine art, I believe that Onib Olmedo should be given the recognition that he so rightfully deserves by being conferred the title of National Artist for the Visual Arts."

• Exciting young artists in the Ateneo Art Awards finals: Nilsong Amading, Maria Cruz-Garcia, Christine Sy, Lyra Garcellano, Robert Langenegger, Mark Salvatus, Rachel Rillo, Mac Valdezco and Mark Valenzuela.

• Art publications flourished, such as the quarterly Muse magazine. Glossies that have a strong arts and culture coverage included Metro Home and Entertaining and Contexts. A new visual-arts magazine was born—Contemporary Art Philippines.

Paalam: Avgoun folk muralist José V. Blanco (March 19, 1932–Aug. 14, 2008); "Mananggol" master Nilad Ramirez (Jan. 30, 1932–Dec. 21, 2008).





Tiamson at Artis Corpus gallery

TO OPEN 2009, ARTIS CORPUS gallery features the exhibit, "P+SR+VRRN," by the "mixed-media" artist from Angono, Rizal, Orville E.B. Tiamson. The show opens on Jan. 10 at 6 p.m. The show is a quick review of the artist's past and a preview of his possible future in pencil and acrylic. All of his works, whether conventional or otherwise, are consistently characterized by "flowing" lines indicative of his fascination for grace and movement. His pencil drawings of children and ballet dancers and his abstract works of sand dunes dramatize this flow. Show runs until Feb. 10. Artis Corpus is at 303 Haig St., Mandaluyong City. Call 717-9619.



Orara at Silverlens

RENATO ORARA HOLDS "LIBRARY BOOK works," an exhibition-installation from Jan. 8-Feb. 14, 2009. Orara renders human ears in library books and produces corresponding photographic prints with the books' call number labels affixed to them.

These prints also serve as maps that disclose the locations of the drawings. To begin the search for the original artworks, one may come to the gallery to view the photo prints, jot down the works' call numbers, and obtain a list of participating libraries.

Thus the gallery becomes a library while the libraries become the galleries. Orara's works have been featured in exhibitions in New York City, Paris, Brussels, Basel and Miami, and are in the collections of the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston and the Museum of Modern Art in New York.

Orara will have a live online artist talk on Jan. 17, 12 nn. "Library Bookmarks" will be shown along with Natalie Ignacio by Stella Kaiser at Silverlens Gallery 2320 Pasong Tamo Extension, Makati City.

Call 8160044-09052650673. E-mail manager@silverlensphoto.com or visit www.silverlensphoto.com http://slab.silverlensphoto.com

ENTERTAINMENT

Electromaniacs are back



IN A SEASON OF COMEBACKS and reunions, guess who's recording again?

INQUIRER EXCLUSIVE

Better version

They're recording their hits again for collectors who may want to hear 'better versions'

Oscar ballots mailed to voters



Internal critic

AP

Click!

Lani sings 'teleserye' theme

Tina Fey voted Entertainer of the Year

CHEER FACTOR

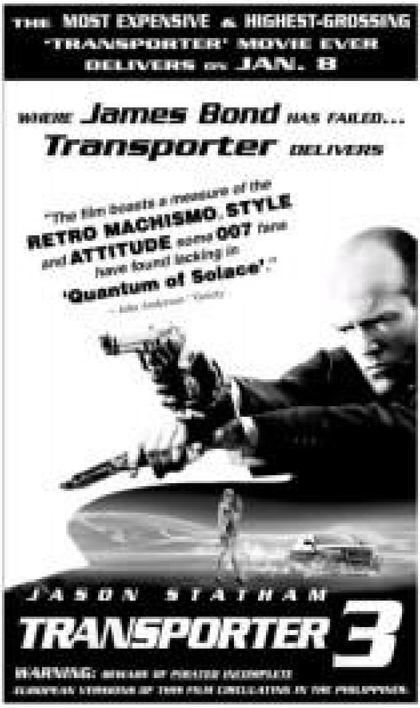
Obvious choice





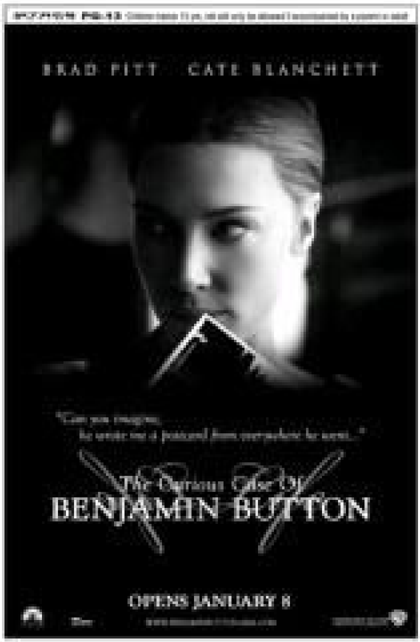












Survey: Head-banging a health risk

Did You Know...

MMTA MOVIE GUIDE

METRO MANILA THEATER ASSOCIATION

NOW SHOWING

Walter Mart

Brain injury



Nazis in holiday movies

At least six with Holocaust themes now in cinemas

Cruise starrer

Academy votes

AFP

AT THE CINEMAS

AT THE MALLS

Glorietta

Greenbelt

Alabang Town Center

Ayala Center Cebu

Makati Market

Ayala Museum

Tri Noma

Queena Lee Chua replies to readers' mail F3
Oprah's big donation to Atlanta school F4

LEARNING

Sign up for free Inquirer copies to teach 'The Magic Circle' by Gilda Cordero-Fernando. Email or text us: YES, SIGN ME UP. <Your name; school; school address; landline; mobile number>.

INQUIRER IN EDUCATION

Real life lessons from 2008 news

Cha-cha, anyone?

CHA-CHA IS SHORT for "Charter change" and "Charter" refers to the Constitution.



Students' Activity Guide

Just the facts

To do and think

Using the Inquirer

Value connection: It's all in the family

Deal or no deal

THE CONTROVERSIAL ZTE-NBN deal added ...

What's it all about

Joey, Ben and Jun

Do the math: What we can buy with all that ZTE money

Project Citizen finals held at UA&P



San Beda program one of country's best

Letran student wins award in Dubai

Lyceum gets quality assurance stamp

Adamson professor is PAP board member



TIP Manila grads in top 10 of licensure exams

Partners in 2009 biotech camp

Awards for La Salle Lipa publications



JRU hosts grad research congress

Angelicum Alumni Card launched



UPOU supports technology-based learning

WATCH to make Filipinos punctual

By Jerry E. Esplanada

DID YOU KNOW THAT ALL over the world Filipinos have a reputation for habitual tardiness?

Valuing time

CHED support

FOOTNOTES



PROFESSOR Alonzo's program won Best Radio Drama and Best Public Service at the 2008 Catholic Mass Media Awards (CMMA).

St. Scholastica's dean of music gets award

Conference may help parents choose kids' schools



QUESTION and answer forum at MFI career orientation featured guest speakers (from right): Aurı Bruck, SMT shipowner's representative; Capt. Bernard Dolot, SMT crew manager; Loraine Banta, fleet manager of Scanmar Maritime Services Inc.; and two other Scanmar staff members.

Career orientation at MFI



INDUSTRY professionals are mentoring students in writing equity research reports.

Pinoy students join research challenge

EUREKA! Queena N. Lee-Chua



Mail call



Generation Me

Math Dance

Permissive parenting

Filipino families

Science Discovery

E-mail Queena N. Lee-Chua at

New automotive rooms for Don Bosco



TMFF president Dr. David Go (second from left) hands the deed of donation to Don Bosco Technical Institute (DBTI) rector Rev. Fr. Anthony Paul Bicomong, SDB; former president of the Don Bosco National Alumni Association Antonio Bernardo; DBTI technical director Rev. Elmer Rodriguez, SDB; and TMP president Hiroshi Ino.

Atlanta school gets $365,000 from Oprah







INQUIRER IN EDUCATION

Deal or no deal?

Numbers, numbers

Students' Activity Guide

Just the facts

To do and think

Using the Inquirer

Values connection

Do the math...

Cha-cha, anyone?



Little heroes in fight against the Big C



